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S E C R E T MAPUTO 000565

SIPDIS

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR D, S/CT, EUR, INR AND AF

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/26/2024

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [MZ](#) [RU](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTERTERRORISM COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA IN  
MOZAMBIQUE

REF: STATE 71826

Classified By: DCM Dennis Hankins for Reasons 1.4 (b and d)

1. (S-N/F) Summary: Reftel provided Post opportunity to finalize previous discussions with the Russian Embassy to develop a cooperative relationship between ORCA and Russian counterparts in the counterterrorism area. We envision participation by multiple Mission elements including ORCA, Econ/Pol, DAO and CONS in this counterterrorism initiative with the Russians. End Summary

2. (S-N/F) Several months ago, Russian Ambassador Vladimir Zemskiy and the Ambassador discussed shared concerns over the terrorist threat in Mozambique and raised the possibility of working jointly in the area. From our perspective, working with the Russians in Mozambique would help overcome some of the lingering hesitance senior intelligence, security, and defense officials (many of whom received Russian/Soviet training) have in working closely with the United States on security matters. For the Russians, cooperation with the U.S. would help bolster their image since they no longer have the financial resources to match their strong historical ties to Mozambique. ORCA indicated its willingness to work with Russian counterparts but the Russian Ambassador indicated he would have to first seek guidance from Moscow. Unfortunately, Ambassador Zemskiy died of a heart attack in March before he was able to tell us if he had Moscow's blessing.

3. (S-N/F) Upon receipt of REFTEL, DCM met April 6 with Charge d'Affaires Valentin Aleshin to determine if Russia would be interested in cooperation. Aleshin was not aware of the previous conversation between the Ambassadors (Comment: Ambassador Zemskiy had previously told DCM he thought little of his deputy. End Comment) but was immediately interested in pursuing counterterrorism cooperation. While the conversation focused on coordinated security assistance, DCM noted that we could also consider broader counterterrorism cooperation through the Defense Attache, Econ/Pol and Consular Sections. Aleshin indicated he would have to seek guidance from Moscow.

4. (S-N/F) On April 22, Aleshin came to the Embassy to report he had received the go-ahead from Moscow to begin contacts between our respective "security experts" to develop a plan of counterterrorism cooperation. Aleshin suggested his instructions called for close direction by himself or other Russian Embassy diplomats. We suggested it best to let the experts work between themselves but to have the Chiefs of Mission meet quarterly to review our overall cooperation on counterterrorism. Our Regional Political Affairs officer (ORCA) has initiated contact with the Russian Embassy as the Ambassador's designee.

LA LIME